

The Hartford News

June 4 – 10, 2020



Anger Runs High at Hartford Protests Over Death of George Floyd, But Peace Remains

BY ANDY HART

The most important film of 2020 won't be an expensive Hollywood blockbuster, it will be a short video shot on a cell phone recording the death of George Floyd at the hands Minneapolis police on May 25. Since the murder of Trayvon Martin in 2012, protestors have been chanting "Black Lives Matter." But to the millions who watched the video, it showed that Floyd's black life didn't matter to the police officers involved in his arrest, and suggested that black lives still don't matter to many Americans.

The video sparked massive protests, first in Minneapolis itself, and then across the country and soon across the world. Many protests were marked by violence. There were numerous clashes between police and protestors in cities from New York to Los Angeles, leaving people dead and injured on both sides. Looting was widespread, arrests were made and curfews were imposed in the largest outbreak of civil unrest in America since the 1960s.



(Above) On Saturday, May 30, Fifth District State Representative Brandon McGee joined in a rally and march called to protest the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police officers on Monday, May 25. McGee addressed the protestors after they had gathered at Hartford Police Headquarters on High Street. He said that he understood and shared their anger and frustration and that they should channel their emotions into voting, and elect people who could bring about real change in race relations in America, particularly between the police and people of color.

(Left) Saturday's protest drew over 1,000 people. Marchers are shown heading toward Hartford Police Headquarters on High Street. (Hart photos)

Protests and rallies decrying the death of George Floyd and the continued presence of racism in America have been held in Hartford for the past several days. Anger and frustration have run high among the thousands that have participated, but there has been no violence, no teargas fired, no windows smashed. Protesters have been constructive not destructive and police have been non-confrontational.

On Friday evening, May 29, Moral Monday and several state legislators led a rally on the steps of the State Capitol. State Senator Gary Winfield from New Haven spoke movingly about his continuing fears for young black men in their interactions with the police.

On Saturday morning, May 30, a group of protesters gathered at Colt Park in Hartford's South End and marched to the State Capitol. After a brief pause, the group, which numbered over 1,000, agreed to march on Hartford Police Headquarters. Chanting "Black Lives Matter" and "No Justice, No Peace, No Racist Police," the crowd marched up High Street and occu-

Hartford...Once Upon a Time



This 1918 photo shows children tending their school gardens in Colt Park. 1918 marked the start of the Spanish Flu Pandemic. It is estimated that one third of the world's population were eventually infected by the disease. Estimates of the final death toll range from two to five percent of the world's population. Reports on the disease were suppressed in nations that were then fighting in World War I. Spain was not involved in the war and thus reports of the flu's devastation were reported widely, which is why it became known as the Spanish Flu, even though it did not originate there. (Photo courtesy of the Hartford History Center, Hartford Public Library)

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Rapid COVID-19 Testing Opens at Arroyo Center

If you don't like suspense, Hartford now has a COVID-19 testing site for you. The new CVS Rapid Testing Site opened this week at the Arroyo Recreation Center in Pope Park. Those being tested at the new site will get their results in 15-45 minutes, rather than one to six days. The testing site in Pope Park is only the second of its kind in Connecticut.

The Arroyo Testing Site is open Monday through Friday. To make an appointment, call the City of Hartford 311 Info Line or 860-757-9311. The test is free and you do not need insurance or a doctor's prescription.

The Arroyo Center is the 10th testing site (see full list below). In addition, last week Trinity Health of New England and Charter Oak Health Center launched a new mobile COVID-19 testing program designed to reach Greater Hartford's most vulnerable populations, including the homeless and those with no motorized transportation.

The program began this past Tuesday, June 2, and will continue at a total of 19 different locations on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays over the next seven weeks.

The test sites will allow anyone to walk up and be tested for COVID-19 (also known as Coronavirus). The tests are free, no appointment is necessary, no insurance is necessary and no prescription is necessary. Testing is available to anyone age six months and older.

Mobile COVID-19 Testing Sites Schedule

- Thursday June 4, 9 am - 4 pm: Dwight Belizzi School, 215 South Street
- Tuesday June 9, 9 am - 4 pm: Windsor Shopping Center, 530 Windsor Avenue
- Wednesday June 10, 9 am - 4 pm: East Hartford Public Library, 840 Main Street
- Thursday June 11, 9 am - 4 pm: Phillips Center, 2500/2550 Main Street

The new mobile testing program is in addition to the Arroyo Center and the other nine current testing sites now available in Hartford:

• Hartford Hospital, 560 Hudson St. Daily,

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Food Distribution at Rentschler Field Extended

To help those struggling to feed their families due to the economic dislocation caused by the Coronavirus outbreak, Foodshare is extending its drive-thru distribution of free food at Rentschler Field, 615 Silver Lane, East Hartford, through Tuesday, June 30. Hours are 8:30 am - 12 noon, Monday through Friday. Each vehicle will be limited to one allocation of food.

George Floyd and Amerikkka

COMMENTARY BY J XAVIER PRYOR

Please, allow me to address the death of George Floyd and countless other unarmed black people executed in this country. My name is J Xavier Pryor, a trial attorney licensed to practice law in Connecticut. I have made case law before both the State Appellate and Supreme Courts. I have tried many cases successfully to verdicts for my clients. I am a black man in America. In spite of the foregoing, I have always known that, in Amerikkka, “black” defined me more than my accomplishments. On Friday, January 20, 2017, Amerikkka drove that message home...again.

This country inaugurated Donald Trump to assume its highest office on January 20, 2017. Shortly following Trump’s election in 2016, an elderly white man living less than a mile from my house posted a large placard in front of his house. It read “America again, January 2017.” He succinctly expressed what I already knew many believed. They believed having a Black president, diminished Amerikkka. Amerikkka had repeatedly delivered that message since President Obama assumed office in 2009.

On January 20, 2017, shortly after Trump’s inauguration ceremony, I was driving my car in an easterly direction on Airport Road in Hartford. A white man in his 50s passed me in the left lane. As the road merged to a single lane, he stopped his vehicle, blocking my travel. I maneuvered my vehicle around his on the right. As I passed, he extended his middle finger, laughed maniacally and repeatedly shouted “Nigger! Ha, ha, ha! F*ck you nigger!” Amerikkka was delivering its message. That word has always moved me to physical confrontation. I grew up in a truly wonderful, integrated neighborhood in Hartford’s North End in the late 1960s, through the 1970s. There would always be one kid who wished to press home the message of Amerikkka through the use of that word. The retribution would always be swift. I never heard it twice from the same person. Anyway, as I drove away, the white man in the blue-collar MDC shirt, driving the black Chrysler 300 with the bubbled, apparently self-applied window tint followed me. As the road widened to two lanes on Brainard Road, he pulled into the left lane, continuing to yell his mantra at me. The child in me awoke. As I exited my vehicle, prepared to die on this hill if need be, I thought about my two older children, and I thought about the two-year old son I had at home with my wife. Rather than exit his vehicle, the white man in the blue-collar MDC shirt aimed his car at me several times, unwilling to get out to back up the bravery he exhibited from the safety of his vehicle. “Amerikkka again, January 20, 2017!”

I decided to do something I rarely do. I decided to call the police to report the incident. You see, as a black man in Amerikkka, I learned long ago that “protect and serve” did not apply to me. I attended high school in West Hartford. The police routinely stopped me to ask me if the pretty, burgundy Fuji 12-speed my father had purchased for me from Marholin Lane was mine. The simple “yes” I gave as an answer

never sufficed:

Officer: Where did you buy it?
Me: Marholin Lane.
Officer: How much did you pay for it?
Me: Two hundred twelve dollars. Why? Do you want one?

Officer: Why are you here?
Me: My ancestors were kidnapped and brought to this country to work.

Once I began driving, this scenario would repeat itself. Ahh, the childhood memories!

I digress, though. I recounted the Brainard Road incident to the Hartford police dispatcher. I told her where the man worked. I knew because he drove directly to the MDC on Brainard Road, ostensibly to begin his shift. Two hours later, I was still waiting for an officer to respond, despite my follow-up calls to dispatch. Due to my persistence, two officers finally arrived. After hearing my story and description of the man and his car, they went to the MDC. They located the man, and he admitted his conduct. The officer asked me what I wanted to do. I said I wanted to press charges. He tried to dissuade me. I persevered. The officer told me he would return the following Monday to take my statement. I never saw him again. I made multiple calls to the Hartford Police, and left messages.

Nothing! I called MDC to complain of their employee’s conduct while wearing their uniform. The MDC afforded me the same satisfaction as the police. It has always seemed that police officers only want to engage me when I am the object of their negative attention. I have many examples, but they would exceed the limitations of this forum.

By now, you may be asking yourself what all this has to do with George Floyd. The answer is, everything. The deaths of George Floyd, Eric Garner, Tamir Rice, Ahmed Aubrey, and countless others merely represent the most unjustifiable acts on a continuum of unjustifiable acts blacks face on a daily basis when they interact with Amerikkkans. That continuum includes profiling, bruises, broken bones, death, and everything else in between. When the police stop a black person in Amerikkka, income does not matter, a suit and tie does not matter, diction does not matter, and education does not matter. Being polite does not matter. Skin color does. I have first-hand knowledge. Do not comfort yourself with the belief that these things do not exist in Connecticut. They do. They just occupy a different part of the continuum.

The problem is, Amerikkka and America have had numerous opportunities to solve this problem. How? By placing a value on black lives. If the men who killed Emmett Till had been appropriately held accountable by America, Amerikkka would have understood the value of a black life. If America had sent the officers who mercilessly beat Rodney King

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Politically Speaking

*A Fresh Look at Issues
Facing our Region & State*

BY MIKE MCGARRY

Thom Harris... “Mr. Jazz”

Back in the 1990s, The Hartford News was asked to produce a printed program for the relatively new Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz (GHFJ) in Bushnell Park. Thom Harris, one of the festival’s main organizers, became a great friend to this reporter and the rest of the staff, especially after he moved his office in with Hartford Publications.

Thom was publisher and editor of the *New England Jazz News*, which had a pretty good run back in the 1990s. Thom’s knowledge of jazz players, recordings and performances was encyclopedic, as was his assistant, Maurice D. Robertson.

In addition to putting New England Jazz together in his small office, Thom also made it the headquarters of the Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz.

A faded memory recalls it was about five years of complete turmoil in our offices every May, June and July – before, during and after the festival – but boy, it was great fun!

Few people realize how much work goes into a large event like the Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz. Thom was on the phone constantly preparing for the event. Eventually

he had to get his own phone line as the regular Hartford Publications line was being swamped by calls from ghost band promoters, potential sponsors and desperate vendors.

Sadly, we also watched Thom’s health deteriorate. Like most people in the jazz world, Thom’s schedule was highly flexible. But after he was absent for several days, people started getting worried. Our worst fears were confirmed when he was found dead in his apartment, probably the victim of diabetic shock.

Thom’s memory lives on in Bushnell Park. The performance pavilion was named in his honor. Memories of him are shared by old hands at the festival every July.

Except this July. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the festival will be broadcast over the computer to individuals and possibly to small groups. It won’t be the same, of course, but it will be something and we salute the GHFJ staff for putting it all together under very difficult circumstances.

And plans are already underway for the 2021 festival, so remember to kick in a donation in memory of Thom Harris, “Mr. Jazz.” Go to hartfordjazz.org for details.

The Ways Police Violence Can End

COMMENTARY BY BILL KATZ

The refrains of “No Justice No Peace” echo through decades of witnessing police injustice to my mostly black brothers and sisters. But nothing will change unless, in my opinion, there is a systemic change in policing, a change in choosing personnel and changing the behavior of police unions who defend every officer no matter how grievous are the charges. Then the case gets referred to a labor board and they often send the case back to the police department. These mandates tie the hands of police chiefs to get rid of cops who are obviously ill equipped to handle policing. Lastly, the cozy relationship that often develops between local DAs and police must be called into question.

Raising the bar for cadet training is vitally important in producing well adjusted recruits. When the selection process allows those who have served in the military and in war zones to become police officers, this can become a recipe for disaster not forgetting PTSD damage which can affect individuals in a moment of extreme duress.

I once spoke to a Caucasian Hartford cop and the one who I spoke with revealed to me a terrible attitude toward policing in the black north end of Hartford. I didn’t reveal my opinions; I wanted him to have at it. And I walked away knowing that he is likely the cop who will commit a terrible crime against an individual one day.

Police unions will indefinitely defend any officer charged with wrongdoing. Along with that blue line of silence in which all police are expected to look the other way when an officer commits an obvious act of brutality, this must end for real change to occur. It hurts the reputation of all police officers. It also hurts the person who may one day become a victim of police brutality.

The cop who committed a modern-day lynching by pressing his knee into George Floyd’s neck in Minneapolis had 18 complaints registered against him. Even a Wal-Mart store would have fired him a long time ago for just a few infractions. But not police departments. There must be a systemic change in order to end this long period of police racism and brutality. It’s historic. And it’s horrific.

It’s vitally important to question the natural close relationships between police and local State Attorneys. This will likely never be realized because they need each other to do their jobs. It’s the same ole, “You scratch my back and I’ll scratch your back.” We saw this play out not long ago when Hartford Judicial District State’s Attorney Gail Hardy became remiss in her duties to investigate every police complaint made on her watch over a very long period of time. Her excuse was having an excessive caseload. Ironically, she is African American but that obviously had no effect on her reluctance to investigate mostly police complaints against minorities.

I know I will never be mistreated by police. Why am I so sure of this? It’s because I happen to be white man. I’m privileged.



Live Music Returns to City

It been a long time since there was a live performance in Hartford due to the COVID-19 shutdown, but on Sunday, vocalist Jose Paulo sang for outdoor diners who stopped by the new Parkville Market at 1400 Park Street. The market will be open for take-out and outdoor dining from Tuesday-Saturday from 12 noon-8pm and Sunday from 12 noon - 6 pm. (Hart photo)



Riots and looting are destroying black communities

This country has gone far beyond moronic. Seriously. Do black communities understand they never recover from riots? Insurance goes up, taxes that benefit the community are gone, along with jobs. Cheer away, allow white people to come to your city and destroy shit while you help. Their neighborhoods will be okay. Black and Latino kids are going to suffer for many years to come. Your neighborhood is now a liability that's not worth the cost. Instead of donating money to the protesters that destroyed black businesses, donate to the black businesses, or businesses in general, that have been greatly affected. Prepare for the food shortage, inflation, hurricane season, and the end of extra benefits. Hope everyone has a plan.

Shanta B. Wiley, Hartford

MARG Continues On in Pandemic

Dear Residents of South Hartford,
I hope you are all staying safe during this COVID-19 Pandemic. Of course, you can't stop living your life, but please take all the recommended precautions for yourself and others.

While the Maple Avenue Revitalization Group (MARG) has not met in two months, that doesn't mean we haven't been active. We have been working on issues such as quality of life, public safety, blighted properties and street cleaning. There are several problems in the Barry Square neighborhood that I am concerned with. First, I have never seen so many cars parked on lawns as I have in recent weeks. Second, it appears that some people are using their homes as mini car dealerships. Third, some properties are not being maintained. The grass is overgrown and garbage strewn about in back yards. It's like an open invitation for the rats to come in.

It seems as though the City of Hartford has forgotten that we need to take care of the small things before they get out of control, and that's what happens when we don't have enough staff to enforce the city ordinances on matters like these. Either the residents don't know the laws, or they don't think there will be any consequences for breaking them.

Hopefully we will be able to have a meeting of MARG in the lower level of Saint Augustine Church in a month or so. We will follow all city and state laws regarding social distancing, masks, etc. Unfortunately, it doesn't look like we will be able to hold our annual Community Day, which has been held in years past in mid-August. It really was a great event for the neighborhood, but safety has to come first these days.

However, we are hoping to hold our annual neighborhood clean-up at the end of this month. If anyone is interested in volunteering or making a donation to support the clean-up, email me at MARGnrz.06114@gmail.com or call 860-296-5543. We have applied for a "Love Your Block" grant from the city and if we receive it, we plan on getting some flowering pots from KNOX and installing them in Barry Square. In other neighborhood news, Maple Avenue was recently repaved and restriped, making for a safer and less bumpy ride. The South End Wellness Senior Center will hopefully be re-opening in July. Keep your fingers crossed!

Stay safe, Barry Square!

Hyacinth Yennie, President, MARG

"WE ARE TIRED"

COMMENTARY BY GABRIELLE MITCHELL

On May 30th, Jaslyn Carpenter, Ashante Malone, Iris Hooks, and I organized a peaceful protest that started at Colt Park, then headed to the State Capitol, in conjunction with Reverend Al Sharpton's "We Can't Breathe" march. Jaslyn, Ashante, and I are MSW students at UConn and have worked in the field for several years. Iris, a longtime Hartford resident, has been in the human services field for seven years as a case manager at a local community agency.

This was our first organized racial and social justice event and it was a huge success. Nearly 200 of us marched through the South End streets as a united front. There were people of all races, genders, and ages taking a stand against police brutality. HPD treated us with kindness and respect, and guided us safely on our mission.

The peaceful approach worked wonderfully for us and gave a glimpse of what the relationship between police and civilians should look like every day.

However, police brutality is not just an individual officer issue, it is a systemic issue. Systems put in place, especially the criminal justice system, were designed from the beginning to infiltrate our communities any way they see fit by breaking down and destroying the individual lives and families of minorities, and therein lies the issue. The message has been and continues to be that murdering us is acceptable and justified. We will not stand for that.

As members of oppressed groups, we as the organizers know and understand the importance of bringing awareness to our communities that brown and black people are being murdered at alarming rates



across the country by police and others with privilege. Not only are the murders devastating to the victims' families and the community, but the delay in charging the offenders and the convictions (or lack of, most times) do not fit the crime. It's no secret to any of us that if the shoe were on the other foot and it

was a black male or female officer killing a white suspect there would be no questions asked: "Life", and a bang of the gavel.

In today's political and social climate, minorities nationwide experience emotional, physical, and mental unrest. Historically, the laws and policies put in place have done a great job of keeping minorities oppressed. That has sent a clear message that their lives and well-being don't matter, and that will not be tolerated anymore. There is nothing "united" about the states of America. We are tired of the divide, we are tired of being devalued, we are tired of lesser pay, we are tired of living in

impoverished neighborhoods and receiving poor education, we are tired of losing our lives at the hands of bigots and police who are supposed to serve and protect. We are just tired.

We are looking to address the many issues that black and brown people face daily, such as food insecurity, criminal and social injustice, and other matters that are important to--and negatively affecting--our communities. The idea is to bring these issues to the forefront by sharing our concerns with local politicians and lobbying to make real change on a local and possibly even nationwide level. Minorities need to be heard, understood, valued, and treated fairly. Until that happens, we will continue to make noise.

Test Pilot: I survived the search for COVID-19

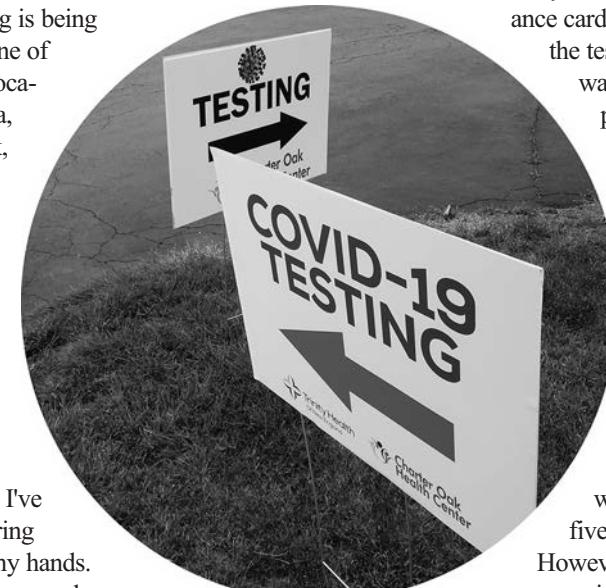
COMMENTARY BY MARIE SULTANA ROBINSON

I was nervous. I have a small nose and sensitive skin. All I could think of was I was going to get my brains sucked out of my head through my nose, but my concerns were unfounded.

Free COVID-19 testing is being made available for anyone of any age at 19 different locations in the Hartford area, three-five days per week, from May 26 through July 8. Specifics are at <https://www.trinity-healthofne.org/find-a-service-or-specialty/covid-19/drive-through-covid-19-screening>

Do I have Covid-19?
I'll find out in 3 to 5 days with a phone call. I've been diligent about wearing my mask and washing my hands. Frankly, I wash and wear a mask so much I feel like a raccoon, the official Coronavirus mascot.

So how did it work?
The testing site was very well organized. We lined



up six feet apart on the sidewalk and when given the go-ahead would go to the first station. They took my name, phone number, age, and location of where I live. They did ask for my ID and insurance card, if I had it, but assured me the testing was for free. Then I was given a labeled testing packet, as well as a card with a contact number.

I went to the next station. The technician told me to put my head back, lower my mask, and relax. He told me he'd count to 10 and very slowly put a very thin swab in my nose. At the end it burned a little bit, deep inside. My nose was uncomfortable for about five minutes afterwards.

However, it was not harsh, there was no pain. I exited through the designated area and walked home.

It's as simple as that. But it's important. I tested because it's a civic duty to protect my community. Have you gotten tested?

Hartford Athletic Announces Youth Soccer Platform

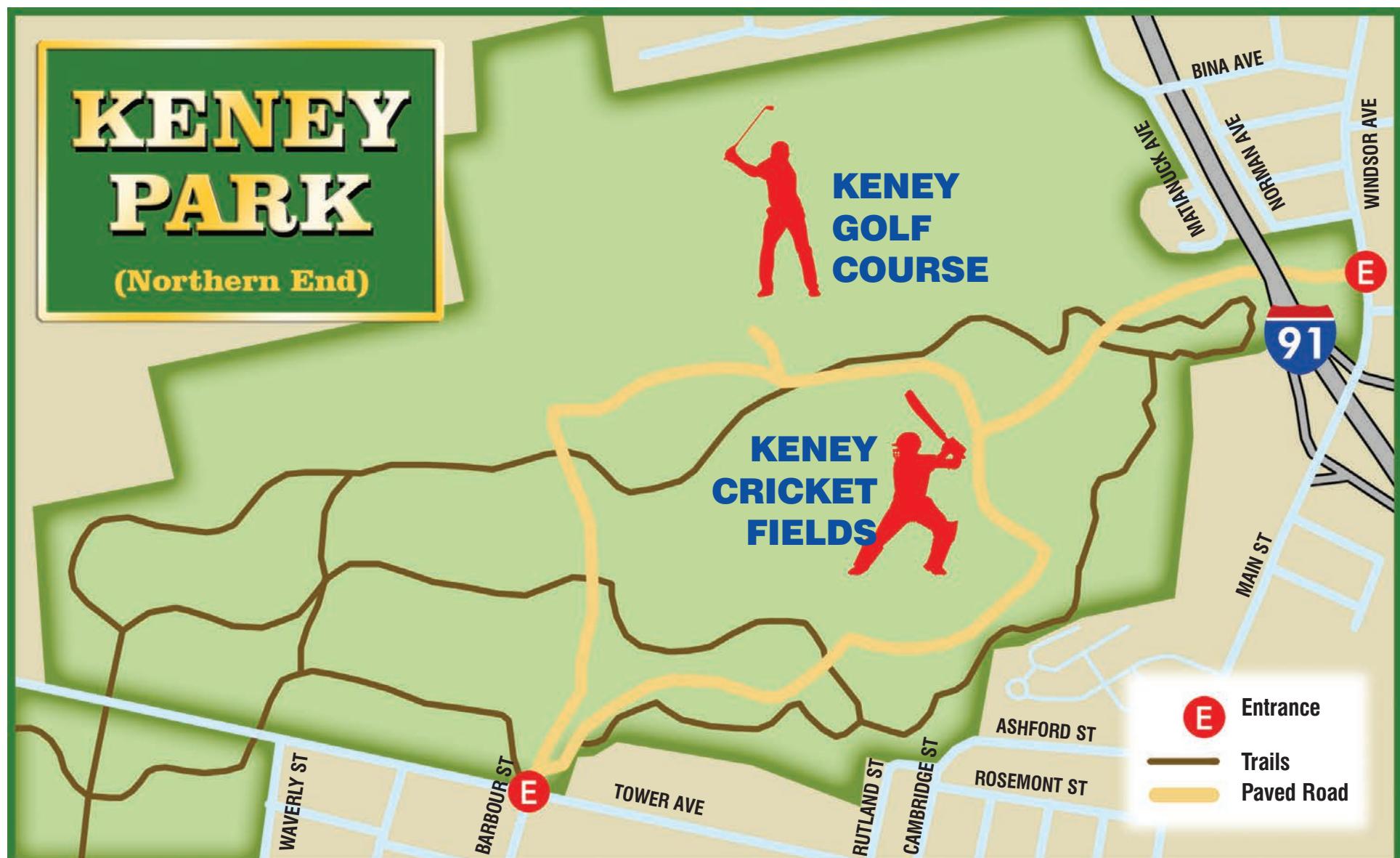
Hartford Athletic has launched of a robust Youth Soccer platform and plans to enter the 2021 USL Academy Cup. The USL Academy Cup is a competition designed to bring together top youth prospects from all USL markets and is centered on identifying and developing players with the potential to reach the professional level. Hartford Athletic will participate in the 2021 USL Academy Cup and will host try-

outs to identify the best talent to compete under the Hartford Athletic banner. Hartford Athletic coaches will lead the team, and more information will be provided in the coming weeks on tryouts and the selection process.

The Youth Soccer Affiliate program – also announced today – has been developed following discussions with town youth soccer programs and premier clubs over the past year. Town travel and

recreational clubs can become an official affiliate at no cost and receive special access and experiences including player appearances, ticketing and merchandise discounts, educational programs, opportunities for aspiring coaches and more.

For towns and clubs interested in learning more about how they can get involved please contact Lily Donatelli (ldonatelli@hartfordathletic.com).



View from the Parks Park of the Week: KENEY (Part 2)

At 693 acres (just over an entire square mile), Keney is one of the largest municipal parks in New England. This week we're featuring the northern end of the park. The southern end appeared in our May 21 edition. Keney Park opened to the public in 1896 on land that had been donated by Hartford

grocer Henry Keney. The park was designed to reflect the natural beauty of the New England landscape, as opposed to the more formal and ornate Elizabeth Park. Achieving this natural look was no easy task, however. More than 500,000 square yards of earth had to be moved and over a million trees and

shrubs were planted. The northern end of the park is dominated by the recently renovated Keney Golf Course, which is now considered one of the best in the region. There are also two cricket fields and plenty of woods for hiking if you're looking to get back to nature,

Coronavirus Testing at InterCommunity



Do you want to know if you or a member of your family have coronavirus?

Adults can now be tested at **InterCommunity Health Care**.

Monday through Friday
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
16 Coventry Street, Hartford

- Walk up testing at 16 Coventry Street
- No doctor's order or appointment needed
- Testing for adults 18 years of age and over
- Test is a self-administered nasal swab
- Bring identification and insurance card
- InterCommunity will call you with the results of your test
- Insurance and uninsured accepted

Help us stop the spread of coronavirus. Get tested today.

Please wear a face mask, scarf or bandanna and observe social distancing of 6 feet while waiting to be tested.

**InterCommunity
Health Care**
Health Care for the Whole Person

16 Coventry Street, Hartford
www.intercommunityct.org
Nosotros hablamos español.

#WeWontStopCaring



Finding a Path to a Safe Reopening

What's known and what's left to learn

BY TOM SWARR

States and cities have been left to develop their own specific guidelines for a phased easing of social distancing guidelines. Government leaders are trying to balance demands of those who want a quick return to "normal" and the cautions of public health researchers struggling to understand how the virus spreads and which interventions are most effective. Computer modeling can be a valuable tool for informing tough policy choices.

The safe reopening of the economy is dependent on three core activities; testing to identify infected individuals, tracing their close contacts, and asking individuals to maintain social distancing. To evaluate intervention strategies, the models divide the population into compartments for those who are susceptible, exposed, infected, and recovered or removed (dead). Rules describe how individuals move from one compartment to another based upon assumptions about the properties of the virus, how people behave, and what public health policies are implemented. More detailed models subdivide people into smaller groups defined by age, sex, health, employment, and other behavioral variables to evaluate how and where people interact to spread the virus.

Unfortunately, there remains significant uncertainty about how the virus spreads and how lethal it is to those infected. The basic reproduction factor (R_0) describes the number of people on average an infected person in turn infects. Estimates have varied from 2 to as high as 5. The higher the number, the higher

the threshold required for herd immunity. The dispersion factor (k) describes how the disease clusters. The smaller the number, the greater the role of super-spreaders. Again, there is uncertainty with some estimates as low as 0.1, which would suggest 10% of the cases lead to 80% of the outbreaks. Better understanding of how the virus spreads can help identify the specific situations which are prone to spreading



the disease. This would allow more targeted, and less economically damaging interventions.

Stopping the spread of the virus is further complicated by the delay between when a person is infectious and when visible symptoms appear, five or six days. A significant number, perhaps 30 or 40% of those infected, never even display symptoms. Thus, a need for extensive testing to identify active infections and the importance of tracing close contacts. Experience with the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone in 2014 showed computer predictions can be reliable, but only for about two weeks into the future. Dr. Anthony Fauci advised, "Models are as good as the assumptions you put into them, and as we get more data, then you put that in and that [projections] might change." Researchers caution, "All models are wrong, some are useful."

Modeling how we humans respond to recommended interventions may introduce even greater uncertainties. Given that wearing masks in public has become a badge of either surrendering your freedoms to an intrusive government or of your civic duty to protect public health based on your political affiliation, the degree of compliance with social distancing strategies is difficult to predict. Constantly changing guidelines cause additional anxiety and can erode the trust needed to support calls for continued social distancing.

One final lesson from 1918: Following the pandemic, many cities were forced to implement austerity measures due to the depressed economy. Budgets for schools and first responders were cut. Extremist politicians offered simplistic slogans and blamed foreigners to win votes. To make the models useful we must be willing to learn and adapt as we gather new data about the virus and our willingness to moderate our behavior for the public good.

Society will recover as it has from the 15 or so pandemics that have occurred over the last 400 years. But some individuals will have their lives changed forever. This is a time to come together and rebuild the economy by taking care of those severely impacted by the pandemic and rebuilding the public infrastructure so we are better prepared for the next pandemic.

SHORT CUTS



Highlights and lowlights this week

COMMENTARY BY ANNE GOSHDIGIAN

Who are you callin' "old"?

Governor Lamont, fresh from the first phase of reopening the state, laid out plans for Phase 2. Here's one that caught my eye: If you're over age 65, you should continue to stay at home. I'm not a big fan of arbitrary numbers. If you're, say, 70 years old (as I'll soon be), healthy, active, with no underlying conditions, and faithfully following all recommended Coronavirus precautions, why would you be more at risk than anyone else? The vast majority of COVID-19 deaths in this state are people over the age of 80 residing in nursing homes or assisted living facilities. And anyway, Lamont, Congressman Larson, and Senator Blumenthal are all over 65, and none of the recent photos I've seen of them look like they were taken at their kitchen tables. You know who should stay home? The plethora of prostitutes on Wethersfield Avenue and the johns who cruise that street nightly in search of them. Who's at greater risk of catching or spreading the virus? Me, or the people who have frequent sex with random strangers in the confines of a car? What say you, Ned?

Another one bites the dust

City Hall has kept this kind of hush-hush, but word got out earlier this week that the Director of Hartford's Department of Public Works, has resigned his position. Those of us who keep a scorecard of the mayor's appointed department heads are not surprised at the news, in spite of the fact that this one was the fifth person to hold that position in the past five years. I attended his interview with the City Council prior to his appointment.

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week in protest of the abominable killing of George Floyd. They were persistent but peaceful in contrast to the looters and rioters of all ages and races in other cities who disgrace the memory and mourning of Floyd by using his death as a golden ticket to destroy businesses (including minority-owned ones) create havoc and panic, and grab as much loot as they can carry, making a carnival out of a deadly serious issue. I remember clearly the North End riots in 1968, and how much it hurt the community, both residents and businesses, and I hope that never happens again here. Finally, thumbs up to the traffic-stopping protesters on I-84 on Monday evening. It was a good attention-getting move, and I applaud you. Can we have some more, please?

Classy, indeed

No sarcasm here. I am duly proud of the people of Hartford who marched several times this past

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George Floyd and Amerikkka

Continued from page 2

to prison, Amerikkka would have understood the value of a black life. If America had held Bernard Goetz accountable for shooting a black man in the back as he lay prone on the ground, while saying "You don't look so bad; here's another!" Amerikkka would have understood the value of black life, expressed in terms of a prison sentence. Since Amerikkka has never been provided with that message, America must now pay the price. We tried kneeling peacefully, but that was unacceptable. Now that we have gotten off our knees, violence is unacceptable. I do not condone the violence, but I understand its necessity. Violence and economic pressure have always demonstrated themselves as the most effective agents of social change.

Think of the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, World Wars I and II, and the civil rights movement. During the civil rights movement there were many

marches, but it was President Lyndon Johnson seeing Black men and women being attacked by dogs, beaten by police, and battered with the spray from fire hoses that caused the federal government to intervene. Violence was the catalyst. So, since Amerikkka has never been held accountable, America now has to learn the value of a black life is social unrest, an interruption of the sense of safety and security that white Americans have had the luxury of enjoying, and property damage. I do not know whether the property damage has resulted from the actions of those demonstrating in protest of the plight of so many unarmed blacks, or from far-right radicals seeking to begin a race war. I suspect it is the latter, but it really does not matter. In either instance, this hopefully will force America to begin to act in its own selfish interest and to address social inequities. Yes, this is only the beginning.

So, where does this leave me? I feel more cautiously optimistic

CITY OF HARTFORD Municipal Tax Relief Deferral Program for July 2020 taxes

On April 1, 2020 Governor Lamont signed Executive Order 7-S, which established a way to provide temporary tax relief to taxpayers

On April 13, 2020, Mayor Bronin proposed, and the City Council adopted, a resolution to provide a Tax Deferral Program to eligible residents.

This program will allow eligible taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits and residents who have suffered a significant adverse economic impact by COVID-19 and those that are providing relief to others significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic to defer up to ninety days the payment of real property, personal property and motor vehicles taxes for the upcoming 2019 Grand List bill due July 2020.

The Tax Deferment Program is available by application for eligible taxpayers, and is due by JULY 1, 2020.

The effect of this program is the equivalent of an extended grace period. The due date of the tax bill is still July 1, 2020. Instead of the last day to pay being August 3, 2020, the last day to pay will be extended to October 1, 2020. All taxpayers approved for the Tax Deferral Program must make payment no later than October 1st, or interest will be charged at the statutory rate of 1.5% per month, retroactive to July 1, 2020.

The City of Hartford is offering this program to "eligible taxpayers," defined by the State Office of Policy and Management (OPM) as follows:

For Residents: Since April 1st, Resident has suffered a reduction in income of at least 20% due to COVID-19, and has been either:

1. Furloughed without pay
2. Work hours have been significantly reduced
3. Unemployed

For Business/Non-Profit:

- Revenue is expected to decrease at least 30% in the March to June 2020 period versus March to June 2019 period.

Landlord Eligibility Under the Deferment Program:

In order for landlords (or any taxpayer that rents or leases property to tenants or lessees) to be eligible for the Deferment Program, they must provide the Tax Collector with documentation that either the parcel will suffer significant income decline, or, that commensurate forbearance has been offered to their tenants.

Commensurate forbearance means (1) a deferral of 25% of rent for ninety (90) days after its due date; (2) a deferral of one month's rent to be paid over the ninety (90) day period; or (3) forbearance substantially similar to (1) or (2) as determined by the tax collector. The landlord must provide documentation evidencing proof that the tenants have received forbearance or that the landlord has actively offered forbearance to the tenants or lessees.

Application due by July 1, 2020 Go to www.hartford.gov/tax to apply.

As a friendly reminder, please complete your 2020 census at My2020Census.gov. It is safe, confidential, and it takes less than ten minutes. You do not need to have your census code, and completing the census will help Hartford get the resources it needs for health-care, education, economic development, and more.

now than I ever have in my life that something may now change for the better. I know that nothing motivates folks to action more than their own selfish interests. As President Abraham Lincoln once wrote, "If I could save the Union without freeing any slave, I would do it, and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves, I would do it, and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone, I would also do that." Our 16th president made a concise, simple expression of selfish interests. If the violence and property damage being perpetrated is by those protesting on behalf of George Floyd and others, it must now stop. You have delivered the message. If right wing extremists are the perpetrators, make that known. They are overplaying their hand, much like the southerner police beating blacks on television in Alabama and Mississippi in the 1960s. While I do not know who is setting the fires, I do know that fires have a way enabling people to see those things previously hidden by darkness. Hopefully, all well-intentioned Americans can join forces to hold accountable the malevolent forces of Amerikkka, thereby extinguishing them.

J Xavier Pryor grew up in Hartford and is now an attorney practicing in the Greater Hartford area.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Silvino Pinto (20-00417)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated June 1, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Francesca Knerr,
Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Maria A. Moutinho
c/o Robib Murdock-Meggers
Falkenstein, Meggers, Paul &
Robinson, P.C.
113 East Center Street
Manchester, CT 06040

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Patricia Adams AKA Patricia D. Adams (20-00288)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated May 29, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas,
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Sherill C. Elwood
c/o Peter J. Boorman
Law Offices of Peter J.
Boorman, LLC
365 Willard Ave, Ste. 2E
Newington, CT 06111



Senator Reviews Meals On Wheels Program

U.S. Senator Chris Murphy discusses the nutritional value of foods delivered through CRT's Meals on Wheels program with Gariann Chiarella, Director of Nutrition for CRT. After helping to load the meals, Murphy followed a CRT truck to some its stops in Hartford. For decades, Meals on Wheels has delivered nutritional lunches to medically homebound seniors (age 60 and over) in Middlesex, Tolland or Hartford counties. For more information, call (860) 560-5848.

George Floyd Protests

Continued from page 1

pied the parking lot of police headquarters for over an hour. State Representative Brandon McGee told the crowd to channel their anger and frustration into the voting box this November, which drew a loud round of applause from the crowd.

On Monday afternoon, June 1, longtime Hartford activist Cornell Lewis and the Self Defense Brigade led a protest at the Woodland Street entrance to Keney Park. After several speeches, Lewis said he planned on continuing the protest at 5 pm at police headquarters. Younger leaders said they would continue the protest until then. The crowd then proceeded up Woodland Street and all the way down Albany Avenue to Downtown Hartford. There, the protest continued at Hartford City Hall and the State Capitol before again moving on to police headquarters. Police had continued to maintain their distance throughout the afternoon and

Hartford Police Chief Jason Thody came out to discuss the situation with protestors.

At the close of the rally, several protestors headed to the near-by entrance to I-84 with the apparent intention of closing down the highway, as has been done in other Connecticut cities this week. State Police lined the entrance ramp and advised caution but in the end did not stop the protestors from marching on to the highway and closing it down in both directions. Protestors left the highway after several state troopers knelt with them in a show of unified opposition to racist policing.

On Tuesday, teachers and others from Achievement First Hartford chanted "I can't breathe," as they staged a brief lie-in at police headquarters. On Wednesday, a symbolic funeral procession in honor of George Floyd was held through the streets of Hartford's North End to the State Capitol. The action was organized by the YWCA of Greater Hartford and other groups.

Help Line for Domestic Violence Victims

From the Office of State Representative Minnie Gonzalez

With the implementation of social distancing and shelter-in-place orders due to the current pandemic, there is an increased risk of domestic violence. To connect those who may be experiencing domestic violence with services, resources, and assistance the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) created CT Safe Connect. Safe Connect is available 24

CRCOG Avisos de Oferta

Todos los avisos de licitación para el Consejo de Compras de la Región del Capitolio están disponibles en <https://crcog.bonfirehub.com/>. CRCOG también está solicitando propuestas de servicios para Crumbling Foundations. Si tiene alguna pregunta, comuníquese con la oficina del CRPC 860-724-4292 o envíe un correo electrónico a crpcstaff@crcog.org. Las ciudades se reservan el derecho de rechazar cualquiera o todas las ofertas, o parte de cualquiera o todas las ofertas, si dicha acción se considera que es lo mejor para los pueblos.

CRCOG Bid Notices

All bid notices for the Capitol Region Purchasing Council are available at <https://crcog.bonfirehub.com/>. CRCOG is also requesting proposals for services for Crumbling Foundations. If you have any questions, please contact the office of the CRPC 860-724-4292, or e-mail crpcstaff@crcog.org. The towns reserve the right to reject any or all bids, or any part of any or all bids, if such action is deemed to be in the best interest of the towns.

Short Cuts

Continued from page 5

ment, noting then that the proposed DPW head who'd had a long military career and was a man of very few words was probably not going to go the distance. There's been a revolving door at 550 Main Street in the past few years as far as directors go. Maybe it's something in the water fountains? So who's next?

The heartbeat of Hartford

HPD Officer Jim Barrett was at it again on Tuesday afternoon. The champion of Hartford's homeless population put on a lunchtime pizza party in front of the Downtown library for the "street people" and those in need, assisted by Reverend Bryan Bywater, the Cabot family of South Windsor, and other volunteers. In addition to tables holding the pies, soft drinks, and cookies,

there were face masks, toiletries, socks, underwear and more handed out to those who stopped by for food. Barrett and his team have also solicited donations of 180 tents that have been made available to the unsheltered. Jim knows who's who and keeps abreast of their status as they wend their way through homelessness. Carrie Howe, founder of Night Angels, also showed up and with her usual kindness and compassion listened to the stories of those navigating hard times, and pledged to help them in any way she could. These folks with the big hearts, and so many others who are all about giving, are a blessing on our city and so deserving of our respect, appreciation, and love.

The opinions expressed here are from the standpoint of my work as a journalist and as a city resident, and do not reflect my employment at any other entities, or their missions.

Testing Sites

Continued from page 1

- 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.: Drive-thru and walk-up testing is available. If you have a primary care physician, they will refer you. If you don't have a physician or have other questions, call Hartford HealthCare's clinical call center at 860-972-8100 or toll-free at 833-621-0600.
- St. Francis Hospital, 1000 Asylum Ave. Monday-Saturday, beginning at 9 a.m. Drive-thru and walk-up testing is available. No appointment is necessary. Testing for children is available. For information, call 860-714-4000, Ext. 1.
- CVS Pharmacy, 479 Blue Hills Ave.: Drive-thru only. Register online at cvs.com/minuteclinic/covid-19-testing.
- CVS Pharmacy, 150

Washington St.: Drive-thru only. Register online at www.cvs.com/minuteclinic/covid-19-testing.

- Charter Oak Health Center, 21 Grand St. Daily, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Walk-in only. Make an appointment by calling 860-550-7500.
- InterCommunity Inc., 16 Coventry St. Testing Monday-Friday, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Walk-up and drive-thru available. No appointment required. For information, call 860-569-5900.
- Wheeler Clinic Health and Wellness Center, 43-49 Woodland St. Testing begins

May 25. For information, call 860-793-3500.

- Community Health Services, 500 Albany Ave. Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Appointment required. Current CHS patients only. To schedule an appointment, call 860-249-9625.

The City of Hartford is providing free transportation to and from confirmed coronavirus testing appointments through Hartford 311. Residents can call 860-757-9311 Monday – Friday, 8 AM – 5 PM to schedule a ride.

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Apartments for Rent

Efficiency, 1, 2, 3 and 4 bedrooms available. Walking distance to shopping, on bus line, off-street parking. Small pets welcome. Section 8 Welcome. Rates Starting at: Studio- \$615; 1BR- \$700; 2BR- \$800; 3BR- \$900; 4BR- \$1000. Call 860-549-3000.

295-297 Garden St. Hartford

Large well maintained 3 bedroom apartments, 1st & 2nd floor, quiet building. Cold flat \$900 monthly. 1 month security 1 month rent. Section 8 Welcome. Call 860-882-3650.

Apartment for Rent

1, 2 & 3 bedroom apartments on Arnold Street and Deerfield Avenue. Appliances included cold flat. Section 8 welcome. Affordable rents. Call 860-752-9060.

Room For Rent

Rooms for rent in Hartford's West End. Utilities included. \$140 weekly. Security deposit. Call 860-888-6655.

Room for Rent

Furnished room with utilities and kitchen privileges. \$130 weekly. 860 560-8200.

Hartford South End

1 & 2 bedroom apartments. Appliances included. Parking. Call John 860-805-4111.

For Rent

Spacious 3 Bedroom apartments on the 2nd floor, West End. Cold Flat. 1 month security and 1 month rent. Available NOW. Section 8 welcome. Call 860-888-6655.

22 Evergreen Avenue, Hartford

This is a spacious 1-bedroom unit with hardwood floors. This rents for \$800 and includes heat and hot water. Close proximity to shopping centers, restaurants and on bus line. On-site laundry and street parking. Section 8 welcomed. No pets. Contract Christine at 860-985-8258.

22 Evergreen Avenue, Hartford

This is a large 2-bedroom unit with hardwood floors. This rents for \$975 and includes heat and hot water. Close proximity to shopping centers, restaurants and on bus line. On-site laundry and street parking. Section 8 welcomed. No pets. Contract Christine at 860-985-8258.

Rooms for Rent East Hartford

Nice, clean rooms for rent, 311 Tolland Street, East Hartford. \$160/week, includes all utilities. Call Robert, 860-308-5455.

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Hartford, North End

3 bedrooms, 44 Edgewood St. Large rooms. Stove, frige, washer/dryer hookups in kitchen. Very nice condition. Cold flat. \$1,100 monthly plus one month security deposit. Section 8 welcome. Call 860-983-5939.

Hartford, North End

4 bedrooms. 23 Rockville St. 2nd flr. 6 large rooms. 100 percent renovated. Washer/dryer hook-ups in kitchen. Stove & frige included. Parking in rear. Cold flat. Section 8 welcome. \$1,300 monthly plus one month security deposit. Call 860-983-5939.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Sophia Gromek (20-00422)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated May 27, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas,
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
William Gromek
c/o Sydney W. Elkin
Shimkus, Murphy and
Rosenberger, PC
382 New Britain Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

El Informativo Latino

El Album de la Comunidad



Felicitaciones al graduado!

Mi nombre es Jayanna Rodríguez y soy graduada de la Academia de Ciencias Médicas del Deporte. Después de recibir mi diploma de escuela secundaria, continuaré mi educación en la Universidad de Goodwin bajo el Servicio Funerario principal. Los nombres de mis padres son Rose Quintana-leak y Corey McLaughlin. Una joven emprendedora y orgullo latino. Hartford Newspaper y La Diferente Radio la felicitamos por sus logros. By Iris Rodriguez

El Departamento De Trabajo Proporcionó Nueva Información Sobre Los Programas De Seguro De Desempleo

El Departamento de Trabajo de CT publicó nuevos números en su sesión informativa semanal el jueves.

Desde el 13 de marzo de 2020, el DOL ha pagado más de \$ 751 millones en pagos de reclamos de desempleo y más de \$ 1 mil millones en pagos federales de desempleo. El CT DOL ha recibido 567,000 solicitudes de desempleo, de las cuales 536,000 han sido procesadas. Ese número equivale a lo que normalmente equivale a cuatro años de actividad.

El comisionado del DOL, Kurt Westby, dice que el tiempo de procesamiento se ha reducido a una o dos semanas en comparación con hasta seis semanas hace poco tiempo. El DOL está contratando a 60 nuevos miembros del personal, además de cinco miembros del personal desplegados esta semana para ayudar con los reclamantes que experimentan problemas como cierres patronales. Westby también anunció un nuevo Contact Center de última generación que estará operativo a mediados de julio. Sesenta nuevas contrataciones atenderán todos los problemas de desempleo. Tendrá múltiples funciones de persona en vivo, correo electrónico y un sistema telefónico, y se pagará con fondos federales. El DOL está trabajando actualmente en un contrato con un proveedor externo para ejecutar el Contact Center. Westby cree que brindará a los reclamantes la atención que se merece. By Iris Rodriguez

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Protestas Contra El Racismo Se Manifiestan En Connecticut

POR: MARICARMEN CAJAHUARINGA

Intensas protestas en todo el país están ocurriendo como resultado de la muerte del hombre afroamericano George Floyd a manos de un policía en Minnesota. Este último acto violento por parte de la policía ha encendido la furia de la comunidad de color desencadenando marchas que piden justicia y fin al racismo que todavía existe en el siglo 21.



George Floyd de 46 años, fue acusado por un empleado de una tienda en Minneapolis cuando este sospechaba que Floyd quería pagar con un billete de \$20.00. Este mantuvo su inocencia al momento del arresto. En un video de seguridad, se pudo observar que el oficial Derek Chauvin (44), puso su rodilla izquierda en el cuello de Floyd, luego que este cayera al suelo al momento de entrar en el patrullero. Luego de 8 minutos, expiró. En ningún momento puso resistencia. Los oficiales Thomas K. Lane, Tou Thao y J. Alexander Kueng, quienes estuvieron al momento de la muerte del afro-americano, también han sido implicados en el caso.

Después de tres semanas, de lo ocurrido, y a la indignación de la familia de Floyd al ver que los oficiales caminaban libres sin culpa, el caso se hizo público. Desde entonces las protestas se iniciaron en Minneapolis con el movimiento Black Lives Matter, tornándose sumamente violentas, entre los manifestantes quienes exigen justicia, y la policía.

Connecticut, no fue la excepción a la situación racial que vive el país. Las marchas pacíficas de las comunidades de color empezaron desde el viernes en Hartford, y siguen continuando apasionadamente en las ciudades metropolitanas como Hartford, New Haven y Bridgeport. Los residentes de otras ciudades más pequeñas como Meriden, Cromwell, Middletown y Manchester se han unido.

El sábado, más de 4 mil manifestantes marcharon pacíficamente en Hartford. Entre cánticos y poemas que eran inspirados por el dolor racial expresaron su dolor para que las autoridades no se ensañen con las comunidades de color. Sin embargo, un instigador blanco portando una bandera americana, fue a perturbar la marcha insultando y lanzando palabras racistas a los presentes. Otro joven blanco le tiró agua en la cara, pero la comunidad decidió dejar ir al perturbador, siguiendo con su marcha tranquilamente. El video de este altercado lo puedes encontrar en la página de Facebook de Boceto Media.

En Bridgeport, los activistas bloquearon la carretera en la ruta 8 por varias horas. Los policías de la ciudad tuvieron que usar gas pimienta para desalojar los manifestantes de las pistas. 2 personas fueron arrestadas. El domingo en Waterbury, al menos 28 personas fueron detenidas por oponerse a desbloquear la carretera interestatal 84.

En Connecticut, los últimos ataques de brutalidad policial más recordados en los últimos años, fueron el de Stephanie Washington y Paul Witherspoon en la ciudad de New Haven, cuando en el 2019 la policía de Hamden y Yale (New Haven), tiraron balazos a sus carros dejando muy mal herida a Washington, y a Witherspoon con secuelas mentales. El tiroteo empezó porque la policía pensó que el carro de los jóvenes era sospechoso.

Este año en Hartford, la ciudad llegó a un arreglo monetario de \$450 mil a Tylon Outlaw, quien fue golpeado por la policía de Hartford en el 2004. El caso duró 15 años en la corte. Otros casos de abuso de autoridad hacia las comunidades de color se han reportado en el estado, comúnmente en las papeletas de tráfico.

Muchos de ellos dijeron durante la protesta que no apoyaran con votos a aquellos legisladores que no los respalden en sus pedidos, “Donde están ahora, no hay ninguno en esta marcha”, dijo un joven afroamericano en la manifestación del sábado en Hartford. Sin embargo, al ver el sentir de los manifestantes, algunos políticos se han sumado a las marchas durante el transcurso de los días.

Por su parte, el gobernador Lamont publicó en sus redes sociales un mensaje de apoyo a las comunidades de color usando una camiseta que decía “No puedo respirar”, y pidió que por favor se manifiesten pacíficamente. Algunas personas apoyaron el post, otras lo criticaron manteniéndose aislado de la comunidad inmigrante.

El oficial Chauvin, fue arrestado el viernes con cargos por asesinato en tercer grado y homicidio en segundo grado. El caso Floyd sigue en investigación. Chauvin está detenido en la cárcel del condado de Ramsey con una fianza de \$ 500,000. Si se encuentra culpable, enfrentaría una sentencia de 35 años. Los otros 3 oficiales fueron despedidos.

Maricarmen Cajahuaranga es periodista y productora de Boceto Media. Puede contactarla en boctomedia@gmail.com

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